

SSWAG Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Location: Chateau Elan Meeting Room

Mr. Lowe, President, called the board meeting to order at 6:06pm. He indicated that on our agenda today were updates from Dr. Booker and preparing the slate for presentation on Tuesday at our business meeting.

Ms. Woodcock, VP: no updates.

Ms. Parker, Secretary: no updates.

Dr. Booker, Treasurer: As of Friday, March 20th, current balance of \$249,215.61 - if anyone needs to know what they have in their budget, let Dr. Booker know. Budget study - correcting the conference profits; 2024 profits were what she previously stated (\$4,622.24) but that was after they increased the budget for that Stone Mountain Conference so it was technically a loss.

Money from the conference is continuing to roll in and out, with over \$110,000 worth of paid registrants. Total of \$11,250 in sponsors. Be sure to thank our sponsors. There was a short discussion on the upcoming budget for the Legislative Committee. Plans to discuss further at the Summer Retreat.

Ms. Melanie Holt (retiree member): asked for clarification on the cost of the lobbyist.

Dr. Booker: explained the monthly expense for the new lobbyist.

Ms. Carson clarified that the expense for the lobbyist comes from the Legislative Budget. Dr. Booker confirmed.

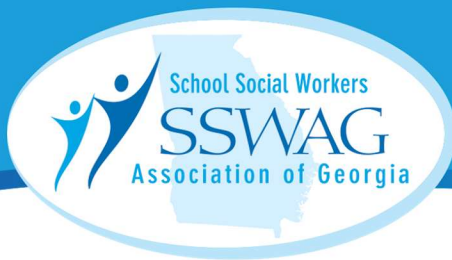
Mr. Lowe: Hanson Polk and Karen Menefee are going to discuss the Nominating Committee work for Vice President nominees.

Ms. Menefee: There are 2 nominees for Vice President: Ms. Tamisha Brothers-Bembry and Mr. Nicholas Hartley. Their bios have been completed and will be presented Tuesday. Submitted all requirements and selected as nominees for Vice President.

Ms. Polk made a motion to present Ms. Brothers-Bembry as nominee for Vice President to be put before the voting body on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Ms. Menefee seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Ms. Shotwell made a motion to present Mr. Nicholas Hartley as nominee for Vice President to be put before the voting body on Tuesday, March 24, 2026. Ms. Rojas seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously 11-0.

Mr. Lowe noted that nominations can be offered from the floor (on Tuesday, March 24, 2026).



Ms. Melanie Holt provided feedback and concerns related to communication. Mr. Lowe noted how communication is sent out to the membership via email and the various District Presidents.

Ms. Shotwell advised there is a vendor spotlight tomorrow (Monday, March 23, 2026) which will be SSWAG to encourage and engage members about SSWAG and becoming involved with SSWAG. Ms. Shotwell requested that Board Members be present.

Dr. Thomas: The Social Work Legends have been selected this year: Kristen Braid and Alicia McClung. Alicia's interview will be following this executive meeting.

Dr. Brown-Pinkney: requested to know how we can further assist Ms. Holt?

Ms. Holt: noted specific issues with technology. Ms. Carson, Ms. Fowler, and Ms. Hafford Brown were able to assist with her at that time.

Dr. Brown-Pinkey requested Ms. Hafford Brown to assist Ms. Holt with communication.

Ms. Fowler also advised Ms. Holt of the upcoming dates for next year as well.

Ms. Holt then noted concerns about the expense of the Conference. Ms. Fowler noted that the costs for retirees is a loss for SSWAG, and the increasing costs to hosting SSWAG.

Ms. Ashley Harvell (District 6) noted she would reach out personally to Ms. Holt.

Dr. Portis noted that it is required by venues to have a \$45,000 food minimum per the contract.

Mr. Lowe advised if there are questions about the process for the lobbying firm selection process to reach out to him. He noted that our previous lobbying firm declined to offer a proposal to continue services with them. Mr. Lowe briefly reviewed the selection process. Mr. Lowe also noted that our new firm is the reason we received the funding back in the budget.

New York Life presented briefly on their Grief-Sensitive Schools Initiative.

Dr. Portis reminded members to stop by and pick up their name tag and bags tonight.

Mr. Hartley made a motion to close the meeting. Ms. Polk seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously; meeting adjourned at 7:00pm.